

GUNNISON GORGE Wilderness

FAQ

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Where is the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area?

Located in the heart of the NCA, the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness encircles a double canyon formed by the Gunnison River. The wilderness area encompasses approximately 17,700 acres of public lands, including 14 miles of the river, extending from the northwestern boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park north to a point approximately one mile downstream from the confluence of the Smith Fork and the mainstem of the Gunnison.

What types of use are allowed in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness?

Generally, wilderness designation allows for any use or activity that does not utilize motorized vehicles or equipment, mechanized transport, or result in a permanent or human-made structure or installation, including:

- hiking and backpacking
- horseback riding
- rafting and kayaking
- domestic livestock grazing
- hunting and fishing

Visit the **Gunnison Gorge Wilderness** webpage for specific visitor use regulations.

What types of use are NOT allowed in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness?

- Travel by motorized or mechanized vehicles (such as ATVs, motorcycles, four-wheel drive vehicles, mountain bikes, and motor boats). NOTE: The Wilderness Act of 1964 provides that the Secretary of the Interior may continue to allow the use of motor boats in wilderness, subject to such restrictions as the Secretary deems necessary, if such use was established before the area was designated as wilderness.
- Construction of any temporary or permanent roads
- Construction of any human-made structure or installation
- Location, exploration, development and patent of mining claims
- Sand and gravel extraction activities
- Oil and gas or geothermal leasing, exploration and development
- Sale or lease of public lands for any purpose

- Rights-of-ways and permits for any purpose (e.g. roads, powerlines, pipelines and communication sites)

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Are User Fees Required?

User fees are required only in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area and only for individuals 16 years of age and older. Fees are currently set at:

- \$3.00/person per day for day use (in and out the same day)
- \$5.00/person per calendar day for overnight use (so that one overnight = \$10 and two overnights = \$15)
- An annual day use pass is available for \$15.00

For more information on user fees, visit the **Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Permit Fees** page.